

2020



drishti

# CURRENT AFFAIRS

**WEEKLY PRACTICE QUESTIONS**

27<sup>th</sup> January - 1<sup>st</sup> February



 *The Indian* **EXPRESS**

live  
**mint**

THE HINDU  
**BusinessLine**



1. Consider the following pairs

<b><i>Prayag</i></b>	<b><i>Confluence of rivers</i></b>
1. Vishnuprayag	Confluence of Alaknanda and Pindar
2. Nandaprayag	Confluence of Alaknanda and Nandakini
3. Karnaprayag	Confluence of Alaknanda and Dhauri Ganga
4. Rudraprayag	Confluence of Alaknanda and Mandakini
5. Devprayag	Confluence of Alaknanda and Bhagirathi

Which of the above pairs is/are correctly matched?

- (a) 1, 2 and 5 only
- (b) 1, 3 and 5 only
- (c) 2, 4 and 5 only
- (d) 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5

**Answer: (c)**

**Explanation:**

- **Vishnuprayag:** The Alaknanda River, which originates from Satopanth glacier is joined by the Dhauri Ganga River near Joshimath (on Joshimath - Badrinath route).
- **Nandaprayag:** Nand Prayag is the second prayag in the cascade sequence of the confluences where the Nandakini River joins the main Alaknanda River.
- **Karnaprayag:** Karn Prayag is the location where Alaknanda River is joined by the Pindar River that originates from the Pindar glacier, below the Nanda Devi Mountain range.
- **Rudraprayag:** At Rudra Prayag the Alaknanda meets the Mandakini River.
- **Devprayag:** Dev Prayag is the confluence of the two holy rivers, the Bhagirathi - the chief stream of the Ganges and the Alaknanda.
- **Hence, Option (c) is correct.**

2. Recently, the Indian Navy has launched the 'Operation Vanilla' to assist the population of which country?

- (a) Madagascar
- (b) Australia
- (c) Oman
- (d) Indonesia

**Answer: (a)**

**Explanation:**

- Recently, the Indian Navy has launched the 'Operation Vanilla' to assist the population of **Madagascar** affected by **Cyclone Diane**.
- **Vanilla Islands** - a group of islands located in the south western indian ocean.

- It is an affiliation of the island nations Seychelles, Madagascar, Reunion, Mauritius, Comoros, Mayotte in the Indian Ocean to form a new travel destination.

**Hence, Option (a) is correct.**

3. Consider the following statements about Cheetah:

1. The Asiatic Cheetah is classified as a Vulnerable species by the IUCN Red list, and is believed to survive only in Iran.
2. The African Cheetahs, who are present in the Wild, have Critically Endangered status in the IUCN Red List.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 2 only
- (c) Both 1 and 2
- (d) Neither 1 nor 2

**Answer: (d)**

**Explanation:**

- The Asiatic Cheetah is classified as a “Critically Endangered” species by the IUCN Red list, and is believed to survive only in Iran. **Hence, Statement 1 is not correct.**
- The African Cheetahs, who are present in the Wild, have Vulnerable status in the IUCN Red List. **Hence, Statement 2 is not correct.**

4. Consider the following statements:

1. Chilika lake (Odisha) and Loktak Lake (Manipur) are the two wetlands of India that are in Montreux record.
2. Keoladeo National Park (Rajasthan) was placed in the record but was later removed from it.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 2 only
- (c) Both 1 and 2
- (d) Neither 1 nor 2

**Answer: (d)**

**Explanation:**

- Currently, two wetlands of India are in Montreux record: Keoladeo National Park (Rajasthan) and Loktak Lake (Manipur). **Hence, Statement 1 is not correct.**
- Chilika lake (Odisha) was placed in the record but was later removed from it. **Hence, Statement 2 is not correct.**

5. 'Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat' Programme comes under
- Ministry of Tourism
  - Ministry of Culture
  - Ministry of Home Affairs
  - Ministry of Human Resource Development

**Answer: (d)**

**Explanation:**

- The Government of India has launched an initiative Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat (EBSB) to foster national integration by a co-ordinated mutual engagement process between States, Union Territories, Central Ministries, Educational Institutions and general public through linguistic, literary, cultural, sports, tourism and other forms of people-to-people exchanges.
- It is an initiative of the Ministry of Human Resource.

**Hence, Option (d) is correct.**

6. Consider the following statements about Someshwara Wildlife Sanctuary:
- Someshwara Wildlife Sanctuary is a protected wildlife sanctuary in the Western Ghats of Maharashtra state in India.
  - It is named after the presiding deity "Lord Someshwara" of the famed Someshwara temple located within the sanctuary.
  - The Someshwara Wildlife Sanctuary has tropical wet evergreen forests, west coast semi evergreen forests and southern secondary moist mixed deciduous forests in its ranges.
  - The Damodar River flows through the sanctuary.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- 1 and 2 only
- 2 and 3 only
- 1, 2 and 3 only
- 1 and 4 only

**Answer: (b)**

**Explanation:**

- Someshwara Wildlife Sanctuary** is a protected wildlife sanctuary in the **Western Ghats** of Karnataka state in India. Hence, Statement 1 is not correct.
- It is named after the presiding deity "**Lord Someshwara**" of the famed **Someshwara temple** located within the sanctuary. **Hence, Statement 2 is correct.**
- The Someshwara Wildlife Sanctuary has **tropical wet evergreen forests**,

west coast semi evergreen forests and southern secondary moist mixed deciduous forests in its ranges. **Hence, Statement 3 is correct.**

- The perennial Sitandri River flows through the sanctuary. **Hence, Statement 4 is not correct.**

7. Regarding Rashtriya Uchchatar Shiksha Abhiyan (RUSA), consider the following statements:

1. Rashtriya Uchchatar Shiksha Abhiyan (RUSA) is a Central Sector Scheme.
2. It aims at providing strategic funding to eligible state higher educational institutions.
3. The central funding would be norm based and outcome dependent.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- (a) 1 and 2 only
- (b) 2 only
- (c) 2 and 3 only
- (d) 1, 2 and 3 only

**Answer: (c)**

**Explanation:**

- RUSA is a **Centrally Sponsored Scheme (CSS)**, launched in 2013. **Hence, Statement 1 is not correct.**
- It aims at **providing strategic funding to eligible state higher educational institutions.** **Hence, Statement 2 is correct.**
- The funding would flow from the central ministry through the state governments/union territories to the State Higher Education Councils before reaching the identified institutions.
  - The funding to states would be made **on the basis of critical appraisal** of State Higher Education Plans.
  - The central funding would be **norm based and outcome dependent.** **Hence, Statement 3 is correct.**

8. Regarding Legislative Councils, which of the following statements is not correct?

- (a) Article 169 leaves the choice of having a Legislative Council to individual states.
- (b) A legislative council cannot have more than a third of the number of MLAs in the state but not less than 40 members.
- (c) One-third of the members of the legislative council are elected by the members of the legislative assembly.
- (d) The resolution to abolish legislative council is passed by a simple majority of the total membership of the Assembly.

**Answer: (d)**

**Explanation:**

- The resolution to abolish legislative council has to be passed by a majority of the total membership of the Assembly and by a majority of not less than two-thirds of the members of the Assembly present and voting. **Hence, Option (d) is not correct.**  
**All other statements are correct.**

9. Consider the following pairs:

**Martial Arts**

- Gatka
- Thoda
- Kalaripayattu
- Pari-Khanda

**State**

- Punjab  
Himachal Pradesh  
Tamil Nadu  
Maharashtra

Which of the pairs given above is/are correctly matched?

- 1 and 2 only
- 1 and 4 only
- 1, 3 and 4 only
- 1, 2 and 4 only

**Answer: (a)**

**Explanation:**

**Different Martial Art forms in India**

Martial Arts	State
Gatka	Punjab
Kalaripayattu	Kerala
Silambam	Tamil Nadu
Thang-ta and Sarit Sarak	Manipur
Cheibi Gad-ga	Manipur
Pari-khanda	Bihar
Thoda	Himachal Pradesh
Mardani Khel	Maharashtra
Inbuan Wrestling	Mizoram

**Hence, Option (a) is correct.**

10. Consider the following statements with reference to Solid Waste Management Rules, 2016:

1. It introduced the concept of Extended Producer Responsibility to collect wastes.
  2. Plastic Management Rules are restricted to municipal districts only.
- Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 2 only
- (c) Both 1 and 2
- (d) Neither 1 nor 2

**Answer: (a)**

**Explanation:**

- Plastic Management Rules, 2016 **extended the responsibility to collect waste generated** from the products to their producers and brand owners. **Hence, Statement 1 is correct.**
- The rules have been extended to villages as well and Gram Panchayats have been given more responsibility.
  - Earlier, it was limited to municipal districts. **Hence, Statement 2 is not correct.**

11. Which of the following is/are part of ‘The Great Observatories program’?

1. The Hubble Space Telescope
2. The Chandra X-ray Observatory
3. The Compton Gamma Ray Observatory
4. The Spitzer Space Telescope

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

- (a) 1 and 2 only
- (b) 2 and 3 only
- (c) 2, 3 and 4 only
- (d) 1, 2, 3 and 4

**Answer: (d)**

**Explanation:**

- NASA proposed the concept of Great Observatories, a series of four space-borne observatories designed to conduct astronomical studies over many different wavelengths (visible, gamma rays, X-rays, and infrared) for studying cosmos emitted through radiation.
- The Great Observatories program demonstrated the power of using different wavelengths of light to create a fuller picture of the universe.
- It includes
  - **The Hubble Space Telescope**
  - **The Chandra X-ray Observatory**

- **The Compton Gamma Ray Observatory**
- **The Spitzer Space Telescope**

Hence, Option (d) is correct.

12. Consider the following statements:

1. Spitzer was the first telescope to see light from a planet outside our solar system.
2. Spitzer was one of ISRO's four Great Observatories.
3. It was launched in 2004.

Select the correct answer using code given below:

- (a) 1 and 2 only
- (b) 1 only
- (c) 2 and 3 only
- (d) 1, 2 and 3

**Answer: (b)**

**Explanation:**

- **Spitzer Space Telescope** was launched on August 25, 2003. Hence, **Statement 3 is not correct.**
- Spitzer was one of NASA's four Great Observatories. Hence, **Statement 2 is not correct.**
- It was deployed to study the early universe in infrared light.
- Spitzer was initially scheduled for a minimum 2.5-year primary mission, but the space telescope has lasted far beyond its expected lifetime.
- Spitzer was the first telescope to see light from a planet outside our solar system. Hence, **Statement 1 is correct.**

13. Consider the following pairs

<i>Military Exercise</i>	<i>Partner Countries</i>
1. Al Nagah III	India and Oman
2. Ekuverin	India and Maldives
3. Sampriti	India and Bangladesh

Which of the pairs given above is/are correctly matched?

- (a) 1 and 3 only
- (b) 1 and 2 only
- (c) 2 and 3 only
- (d) 1, 2 and 3

**Answer: (d)**

**Explanation:**

<i>Military Exercise</i>	<i>Partner Countries</i>
1. Al Nagah III	India and Oman
2. Ekuverin	India and Maldives

3. Sampriti India and Bangladesh

Hence, Option (a) is correct.

14. Which of the following area(s) constitute Bodoland Territorial Area District (BTAD)?

1. Kokrajhar
2. Chirang
3. Baksa
4. Udalguri

Select the correct answer using code given below:

- (a) 1 and 2 only
- (b) 1 and 4 only
- (c) 2 and 3 only
- (d) 1, 2, 3 and 4

**Answer: (d)**

**Explanation:**

- The **Bodoland Territorial Area District (BTAD)** mentioned under the **Sixth Schedule** of the Constitution have been **exempted from the Citizenship (Amendment) Act (CAA), 2019**.
- BTAD is spread over four districts of:
  - Kokrajhar
  - Chirang
  - Baksa
  - Udalguri

Hence, Option (d) is correct.

15. Consider the following pairs:

<i>Crop</i>	<i>Disease</i>
1. Wheat	Late Blight
2. Potato	Yellow Rust
3. Tobacco	Mosaic

Which of the pairs given above is/are correctly matched?

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 1 and 2 only
- (c) 3 only
- (d) 1, 2 and 3

**Answer: (c)**

**Explanation:**

<i>Crop</i>	<i>Disease</i>
1. Wheat	Yellow Rust
2. Potato	Late Blight

3. Tobacco Mosaic

Hence, Option (d) is correct.

16. Which of the following benefits is/are available to the Overseas Citizen of India (OCI) in India ?

1. Opening of Bank account
2. Acquisition of agricultural properties
3. Issuance of PAN Card

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

- (a) 1 and 2 only
- (b) 2 only
- (c) 2 and 3 only
- (d) 1, 2 and 3

**Answer: (d)**

**Explanation:**

- **Overseas Citizens of India** are foreigners who are persons of Indian origin.
- They are entitled to multipurpose, multiple entries, a lifelong visa allowing them to visit India at any time, for any length of time and for any purpose.
- **An OCI card allows one to apply for driving incense, PAN card or open a bank account in India but it does not permit acquisition of agricultural properties. Hence, Option (d) is correct.**
- OCI card holders are exempted from reporting to the police authorities.
- **No person**, who or either of whose parents or grandparents or great grandparents is or had been a citizen of **Pakistan, Bangladesh** or **such other country as the Central Government may specify**, shall be eligible for registration as an Overseas Citizen of India Cardholder.

17. Securities Appellate Tribunal has the mandate to hear appeals against the orders passed by-

1. Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)
2. Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA)
3. Insurance Regulatory Development Authority of India (IRDAI)

Select the correct answer using code given below:

- (a) 1 and 2 only
- (b) 1 only
- (c) 2 and 3 only
- (d) 1, 2 and 3

**Answer: (d)**

**Explanation:**

- Securities Appellate Tribunal is a statutory body established in 1995 under the provisions of Section 15K of the Securities and Exchange Board of India Act, 1992.
  - It is quasi-judicial in nature.
  - It is vested with all powers of a civil court and is guided by principles of natural justice.
  - It has one bench that sits at Mumbai and has all India jurisdiction.
  - It has the mandate to hear and dispose of appeals against the orders passed by the
    - Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)
    - Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA)
    - Insurance Regulatory Development Authority of India (IRDAI)
- Hence, Option (d) is correct.**

18. Global Investment Trend Monitor Report is published by
- (a) UNCTAD
  - (b) World Bank
  - (c) IMF
  - (d) Asian Development Bank

**Answer: (a)**

**Explanation:**

The Global Investment Trend Monitor Report is published by the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD). It has ranked India among the top 10 recipients of Foreign Direct Investments (FDI) in 2019.

**Hence, Option (a) is correct.**

19. Which of the following countries borders the Gulf of Guinea?
1. Benin
  2. Ghana
  3. Togo
  4. Nigeria

Select the correct answer using code given below:

- (a) 1 and 3 only
- (b) 2 and 4 only
- (c) 1 and 4 only
- (d) 1, 2, 3 and 4

**Answer: (d)**

**Explanation:**

- The Gulf of Guinea is located on the north-eastern part of the tropical Atlantic Ocean of West Africa.
- This region extends north to Cape López in Gabon and west to Cape

Palmas, Liberia.

- The following countries touches the Gulf of Guinea-
  - Benin
  - Ghana
  - Togo
  - Nigeria
  - Cameroon
  - Gabon
  - Equatorial Guinea

**Hence, Option (d) is correct.**

20. With reference to 'Securities Appellate Tribunal', consider the following statements:

1. It is a statutory body established under Securities and Exchange Board of India Act, 1992.
2. It is quasi-judicial in nature.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 2 only
- (c) Both 1 and 2
- (d) Neither 1 nor 2

**Answer: (c)**

**Explanation:**

- It is a statutory body established in 1995 under the provisions of Section 15K of the Securities and Exchange Board of India Act, 1992. **Hence, Statement 1 is correct.**
- It is quasi-judicial in nature.
- It is vested with all powers of a civil court and is guided by principles of natural justice.
- It has one bench that sits at Mumbai and has all India jurisdiction. **Hence, Statement 2 is correct.**

### MAINS QUESTIONS

- Q1. Critically analyse the West Asia Peace Plan recently unveiled by the US President. How far will it be successful in establishing peace in the region?
- Q2. Legislative Councils do not enjoy equal Constitutional Power with respect to Legislative Assemblies. Do you think time has come to scrap the Legislative Council in the States?